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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

3750 Washington Street, Sanford, FL 32771; www.RefugeSanford.com

**Elder Joel Brooks, Pastor**

**Bishop M. Ruel McCoy, Sr., Diocesan**

**"GOD’S JEALOUSY AND JUSTICE”**

**Joel 2:18-32**

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***Joel 2:18 "Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people."***

Apparently, the prophet’s plea was successful, and God’s people displayed the fruit of repentance (not every Old Testament prophet was so fortunate). For the Lord became jealous and spared his people. Importantly, this is not the kind of sinful jealousy or envy that God condemns. Instead, this is the jealousy of a faithful husband who prizes his bride and won’t let anyone harm her.

***Exodus 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;***

***2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.***

God is not jealous or envious because someone has something He wants or needs. “Godly Jealousy” is a divine attribute explained in an anthropological concept that demonstrates God’s Absolute Love, Perfection and Sinlessness.

***Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?***

***Joel 2:19 "Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen:"***

This is forgiveness on the way. They did not deserve it, but God forgave them, and restored their land. The harvest and blessings God previously withheld he would restore in abundance. As a result, they would be satiated and satisfied. Like the prodigal (prodigy) son, God the Father desires to forgive, redeem and bless his children.

***Luke 15:20-23***

***20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.***

***21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.***

***22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:***

***23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:***

***Joel 2:20 "But I will remove far off from you the northern [army], and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things."***

***Joel 2:21 "Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things."***

***Joel 2:22 "Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength."***

***Joel 2:23 "Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first [month]."***

The description of the northern army seems to indicate that those described in 2:2-9 were people and not locusts. Therefore, this is likely a reference to an eschatological event when God will protect Israel from invading armies. God drives the enemy out, and the curse is over. With the blessings of God upon the land, it will bloom again. The cropswill be abundant. It will rain at the needed time, and they will prosper. All the natural vegetation springs forth to feed the beasts of the field. The fruit trees will abundantly produce fruit, and the vines will bring forth in strength. There is a double meaning here. In the natural, there will be two rains to make the crops grow. This, however, is, also, speaking to the church {Zion}. The former rain was the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost. The latter rain happens at the end of the age. This is a mightier outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all flesh.

***Joel 2:24 "And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil."***

***Joel 2:25 "And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you."***

***Joel 2:26 "And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed."***

***Joel 2:27 "And ye shall know that I [am] in the midst of Israel, and [that] I [am] the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed."***

In this, we see the results of the abundant rain on the crops. This is, also, speaking of the abundance of the Spirit bringing many into the kingdom of God. Wheat symbolizes the Christians. Wine and oil symbolize the Holy Spirit of God. This is speaking of all that the locusts (enemy armies) destroyed, being restored. God miraculously does it.

***Isaiah 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.***

***Joel 2:28 "And it shall come to pass afterward, [that] I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:"***

***Joel 2:29 "And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit."***

The apostle Peter quotes this passage in his great sermon delivered on the first Pentecost following Christ’s ascension. It’s a fitting mention in Acts because there, the Lord began to fulfill this promise to pour out [his] Spirit on all humanity. Moses had desired that God might do such a thing.

***Numbers 11:29 And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the Lord'S people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them!***

Here Joel prophesies that this is God’s plan. Indeed, on Pentecost, the initial fulfillment began among the Jews and then spread as Gentiles were brought into the church. The Holy Spirit is not reserved only for the Jews or for a select group of believers. There are no second-class Christians who receive only partial membership in the church. God’s Spirit is available to all who receive Christ as their Savior. It was very important for this to be in two different Scriptures, because by two a thing is established. The word that prophecy was translated from means to speak by inspiration. This is made available to all flesh, male and female. We can see from this that spiritual dreams and visions are, also, from God. Notice the word "pour". This is speaking of an abundance, not just a few drops. It is a gift from God to His followers.

***Acts 2:16 "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;"***

***Acts 2:17 " And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:"***

***Acts 2:36-40***

***36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.***

***37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?***

***38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.***

***39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.***

***Acts 10:44-48***

***44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.***

***45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.***

***46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,***

***47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?***

***48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.***

***Joel 2:30 "And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke."***

***Joel 2:31 "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come."***

***Joel 2:32 "And it shall come to pass, [that] whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call."***

The very best thing a Christian can do, is be ready to meet their Lord. We are not to fear these things, but rejoice when they happen, because our redemption is near. What a wonderful promise, that God will save everyone who calls upon His name. Notice Zion, which is the church. It is spoken of separately from Jerusalem, which represents the physical house of Israel. The remnant, here, is the 144,000 natural Jews that turn to the LORD.

***Matthew 24:7 "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."***

***Matthew 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:"***

***Mark 13:24 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,"***

***Mark 13:25 "And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken."***

***Luke 21:28 "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."***

***Revelation 14:1 "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty [and] four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads."***

***Revelation 7:9 "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;"***

***Revelation 7:14 "And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."***

***Revelation 21:3 "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God."***

**QUESTIONS**

1. Then the Lord be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for His land, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ His people.
2. Why are the beasts of the field told not to be afraid?
3. What does verse 23 promise God will do?
4. What are the two meanings of this Scripture?
5. Wheat symbolizes the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. Wine and oil symbolize the \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. God will pour out of His Spirit upon \_\_\_\_\_\_ flesh.
8. Why was it important for there to be a confirmation of this Scripture?
9. When will the sun turn into darkness and the moon into blood?
10. What promise did God make about who would be saved in verse 32?